

The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, Inc.

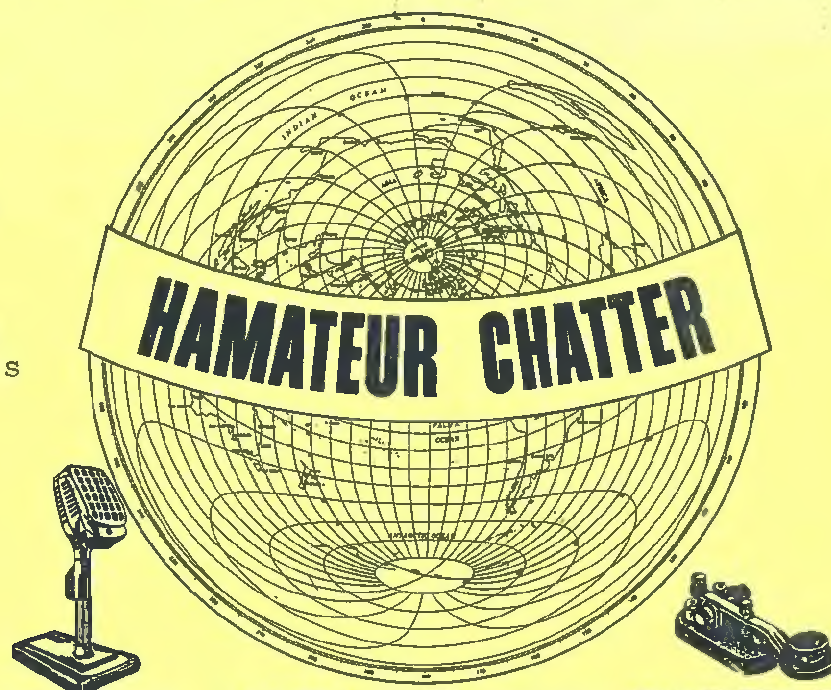
The World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Club

EDITOR
Don Gross
W9KQD

PUBLISHER
Russ Burss
W9RKP

18th ISSUE

JULY 1961



HAMS AROUND THE WORLD

PUBLISHED PERIODICALLY BY M.R.A.C. IN THE INTEREST OF OUR MEMBERS

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(To open remove this staple)

*** M.R.A.C. ELECTION ***

At the Annual Meeting of the M.R.A.C. which was held on Thursday evening, May 25th, 1961, the following members were elected and installed into office.

--OFFICERS--

President-----Russell Burss, W9RKP, 3540 S. 5th St., Milwaukee 7, Wis.
1st V.P.-----Travis Baird, W9VQD, 6815 N. Ironwood Ln., Milwaukee 17, Wis.
2nd V.P.-----Russell Greenwood, WGLVR, 13504 Robin Trail, Waukesha, Wis.
Secretary-----John Ozarnecki, K9PSU, 2439 S. 17th St., Milwaukee 15, Wis.
Treasurer-----Gerald Kraig, K9MZJ, 21325 Clarion Ln, Rt. 7, Brockfield, Wis.

--DIRECTORS--

Charles Dawson, W9CUW, 3418 N. Hubbard St., Milwaukee 12, Wis.
Patrick Shanahan, W9UNJ, 3251 S. Illinois Ave., Milwaukee 7, Wis.
Robert Wilson, W9ZB, 2712 E. Bradford Ave., Milwaukee, Wis.
Fred Krause, W9VLK, 3723 N. 58th St., Milwaukee 16, Wis. (1 year term)

The "Carry Over Directors" are: Fred Borchardt, W9DYG and John Halser, K9MTM. Past President Arlan Bowen, W9QYW, becomes Chairman of the Board of Directors.

*** GREETINGS ***

I am extremely happy to be able to serve as President of the M.R.A.C. for the present Club season and it is my impression that we can all look forward to a season of much activity and enjoyment. The members that have been chosen to serve you for this year as Officers and Directors are all very active in our Hobby and I am sure each of us will devote a lot of time and effort to make our meetings and activities as interesting as possible. We have just recently had one Board of Directors meeting and will have another before September to whip up programs and activities for the coming year.

There is one question I would like answered, and that is, "shall we continue our meetings on a basis of two per month, or three per month". In this fast world of today there are many things that have changed our ways of living and things that were good ten and twenty years ago are in many ways outmoded today. Personally I feel that two good meetings a month are sufficient for any Radio Club, with all the many other hobbies and activities we have today. However, I don't feel this decision is for one person or a small group to make. I think it is entirely up to the general membership and in this respect I request your wishes be made known. Will you therefore help us make this decision by doing me just "ONE LITTLE THING"? TODAY, yes TODAY, please take one minute and address a postcard to me expressing your desire on this question. If you think two meetings a month are enough, fine, and if you would like three meetings, say so. But, if you choose to say three meetings, will you "SUPPORT" three meetings? Will you ATTEND three meetings??? It is important that I hear from a sizeable number of our members within the next few days, so we may plan our meetings and programs accordingly. Any other comments or suggestions you may care to make are most welcome. If you don't have a postcard handy, give me a phone call. HU3-7138.... But do it today. Tnx for listening.

Russell Burss, W9RKP
Pres. M.R.A.C.

CIVIC ACTIVITIES and AMATEUR RADIO

By

Robert L. Goldstein, K9KJT

While the hams have lost some of their frequencies over the years, they still hold more than any other single civilian group and have more freedom in the selection of frequencies to use and in the mode of operation. The main reason we amateurs have been able to justify so much liberty, is the fact that radio enjoys the unique ability to serve in time of disaster, when other types of communications fail. Always keep in mind, that amateur radio is the only HOBBY that is provided for by national regulations and international treaty.

Several opportunities have been offered the amateurs of Milwaukee County to serve in various civic functions and, out of over 400 operators in this county, only a handful have expressed a willingness to be of assistance. While it is wonderful to have friendly rivalry between various clubs on field days, contests, transmitter hunts, etc., efforts toward assistance to our community should be presented on a unified front. Within the various clubs and individual stations in this area there exists the physical capabilities to handle any emergency, natural or man made, if we can all get together.

It is hoped that the spirit of cooperation and forward thinking will prevail in amateur radio in Milwaukee County, even though the rest of the community seems to shun progress.

DX DOINGS

The A.R.R.L. Board of Directors, in session recently requested the frequencies 14335--14350 be kept free from Canadian and U.S. amateur operation. QST will editorialize. Club groups have been bulletined. WLAW will carry official broadcasts. The I.A.R.U. are notifying their affiliates around the world.

This is Purely Voluntary. It is not regulations--since these frequencies can not be regulated from North America--in other countries.

Why not give this your cooperation for the next few months, let the DX come in on the 15 Kcs, call them from BELOW 14335, do NOT ZERO-BEAT the foreigners.

Pass the word..... de W9GPI

1961 Roster Errors & Omissions

Fred Borchardt, W9DYG a director of M.R.A.C. was omitted from the list of Board Members..

Robert L. Goldstein is incorrectly listed as Radio Officer for Civil Defense. He is the A.R.R.L. Emergency co-ordinator for Milwaukee County. The Radio Officer for the Milwaukee Metropolitan Target Area is Ralph O. Koenig, W9RUF, 1285 Garvins Avenue, Brookfield, Wisconsin. His telephone number is SU 6-6278.

Unusual Case of Interference on Rural Radio System
From
RADIO NOTES- A.T.& T. Company

A rural radio system operating between Rufus, Oregon and Cliffs, Washington, 2.4 miles apart across the Columbia River, was troubled with false rings. Upon investigation by the Plant technical forces, it was found that a resident one-half mile from the nearest radio terminal was able to ring the stations by turning on her Magnavox Model U34-01-00 television receiver. The audio portion of the receiver generated interference in the 150-160 mc band.

This is a new type of set in which the volume control is separated from the chassis and connected by a shielded lead. Ground for this shield is carried for some distance through the chassis harness. The frequency varied with the setting of the volume control which also turns on the set without changing the volume. Of the several methods tried to suppress the 150 mc oscillation, grounding the shield at the point of entry to the chassis was most effective.

The cause of the interference was located by the use of a Monitoradio DR-200 receiver with a 3-element Yagi antenna to determine the direction of the signal. A Heathkit grid dip meter was used to pin-point the television set wiring from which the spurious emission was taking place.

The Magnavox engineering people have been contacted and say they will investigate this situation on current production models to determine the cause, and will take necessary action to minimize the problem on future production.

(The above article was submitted by Ray Pescheck, W9LJU)

A.R.R.L. COVER AWARD
By
Jack Doyle, W9GPI
Director, Central Division

Commencing with the JUNE 1961 issue of QST the A.R.R.L. will inaugurate the "Cover Award".

This Award will recognize an author whose article appeared in the CURRENT ISSUE, it will gain approval by majority opinion secured from Directors, Vice Directors and Assistant Directors from all Divisions, plus the SCM's.

A balloting card will be used by this Official Field Family to advise the Merit and Awards Committee of the choices as determined by localized inquiry.

After the printing of each Cover for QST, the fine engraved plate will be treated with a plating and mounted on a solid walnut plaque, an additional 1x4 inch silver plate will be mounted below the Cover Plate on the plaque and the recipient presented with this outstanding recognition, with ceremony.

Our Wisconsin Assistant Directors are listed below, please if you like an article, drop a card, or tell any one of them---
"My choice for an outstanding article is"--and name it. They will contact me and you'll have your choice recognized.

Tom Gettelman	W9IZO	John Scarvaci	W9GIL
Reno Goetsch	W9RQM	Ross Hansch	W9RBI
"Bud" Woida	W9KQB	(SCM - Wisconsin)	

BRIEFS

Jim Buth, K9CJK & Ink Bowen W9QYW, have built identical tri band Quads, and report amazing results from same.

Jim Weitzman, K9YTJ, has dropped the N from his call, and is doing a good job pushing TFC on CW.

Bob Wilson, W9ZB-No sooner then he had moved to his new Qth, then up went a TA 33 Senior beam. Beam raising party consisted of Bob, W9DYG, & K9CJK, Trav Baird W9VQD.

Earl, K8SAX, from Marquette Michigan is staying at Woods. Stop in & visit him. He may have heard or worked you from his home QTH.

Jerry, K9MZS, the new treasurer was laid up for a week in the hospital with blood poisoning in his right arm. No wonder he has been using his left foot lately to key his rig.

Travis, W9VQD, first vice-president will have a visitor from the orient for one year. Trav has volunteered to house a student from the foreign exchange program.

" The Starved Rock Annual Hamfest "

This outstanding event was held again, for the 22nd year, on June 5th.

Many of you who have never attended this affair must wonder HOW, WHY, OR WHAT it is that attracts each year, as it did last week, OVER 3500 people--- at One Buck per person.

Frankly after attending no less than 15 or 16 years, I also catch myself wondering. It is held out of doors at a 4-H grounds, there is one fairly large type building that one would expect to find on any grounds of this type, a couple of smaller refreshment buildings that are operated by the family members of the local Starved Rock Radio Club, a "Pop" counter operated by the members, and a prize department. (A La Wausau).

A Maxwell Street--buy, swap, sell or what have you--this is at least two or three blocks long, cars, trucks, station wagons, and displays. All confined to an area, on a first come best location basis--no charge for this parking area. George Keith, the M.C. tells me that these Maxwell Street Merchants begin arriving at Six A.M. and come from all over the Division and St. Louis.

The grounds are nothing to write home about, usually dry and burned up from the heat, which always seems at least 20 degrees warmer than Wisconsin.

From my best recollection, the SRRC has less than 50 members, who have built themselves a fine Club House, equipped it, and have a waiting list for membership.

I know of More Than 20 spots in Central and South Central Wisconsin that could BACK their facilities CLEAR OFF THE GRASS, and Why this simple, no program type of HAMFEST cannot be planned and become an Annual event always strikes me every time I go to STARVED ROCK---HOW ABOUT IT???? They have fun. Each year it grows, and while they never publish the NET RESULTS, it MUST be substantial.....de Jack, W9GPI

CROWDED SPECTRUM

Bandwidth is what uses up the frequencies that are available for radio transmissions in the atmosphere-the so-called radio spectrum.

In the U.S. there are more than 11,000 commercial broadcasting stations, including AM, FM, and television. There are, FCC estimates, about 2½ million radio transmitters in the safety and special services category. Applications pour in at the rate of 350,000 per year.

No one knows how many military and government agency radio transmitters exist. And channels have to be set aside for radar, navigation aids, and other devices that radiate energy, such as diathermy machines and industrial high-frequency heating devices.

In some places, such as the populous East Coast and Los Angeles areas, crowding is a serious problem for marine, land mobile, and other operations. Consequently, any way to get more information over less bandwidth is valuable.

More in Less- One technique that helped stave off overcrowding in recent years is called single sideband transmission. Equipment has been developed that transmits the variation on only one side of the carrier frequency. This permits just as much information to be carried on half as much bandwidth. In crowded areas, this enables FCC to cram twice as many frequency assignments into the same space, gaining temporary relief from crowding.

Line of Sight- Crowding is most serious in the lower frequency ranges, both because these frequencies have been in use longest and because they are the only ones that can successfully operate at more than line-of-sight distances without special relay equipment.

As you go to higher frequencies, the line-of-sight limitation on distance gets more and more critical. Also, signals tend to lose power faster as distance increases. By the time you get above the UHF television band to 890 megacycles, the line of sight restriction is quite severe.

But there is one compensation: The wavelengths are so short that it is possible to use very efficient directional antennas. You can be on the same frequency as someone else, and as long as you aren't in the line of fire of his antenna, there is no interference.

Open to Air Rush- The frequency bands above 890 megacycles were opened for private operation by an FCC decision last year. So far, there has been no wholesale rush by private business to go on the air. However, a rush may come as the load develops, particularly when microwave systems in the 10,000-megacycle bands are produced in volume by manufacturers and when accessory equipment-such as facsimile, closed circuit television, and other data transmission devices-is designed to work with them.

Submitted By
W9D08 (From Business Week)

FOR SALE:

Johnson Matchstick Complete \$25.00
W9RYA Grafton, Wisconsin

FOR SALE:

Sonor NBFM Exciter VFX680
W9KQD

DIVISION DOINGS

- July 30th TURKEY RUN STATE PARK (Indiana) near Terre Haute on 41
- Aug. 6th Six Meter Club Hamfest-- Chicago
- Aug. 13th Hamfesters BIG Annual Picnic--Santa Fe Park, Chicago (Down Tri-State Tollway to U.S. 66, south on 66 to 91st and Wolf Road---signs) 400 prizes. BIGGEST, Y'all come.
- Aug. 26-27th 1961 Central Division ARRL Convention-Springfield, Ill. (same route as Hamfesters to Springfield, Ill.- write to Lincoln Amateur Convention, Inc. 104 No. 6th St. Springfield, Ill.) for registrations in advance. It's cheaper, and motels or hotels especially designed for Non-Hams, Ex YL's and HARMONICS-----entertaining and historical..... de W9GPI

ARRL ACTIVITIES NEWS

Wisconsin section news

Nets

W9SN (slow speed net)	1930 CDST	3535 Kcs
Ben. (fone net)	1800 CDST	3950 "
WIN (CW net)	2015 CDST	3335 "

The Wis section now has 1 SEC, 2 PAM, 2 RMs, 35 EC, 8 OBS, 16 OPS, 4 OBS, 34 ORS, & 12 OO. NOTE: a official bulletin station is needed for 7 mc CW. Anyone wishing to fill this vacancy, get in touch with W9KQB, SCM.

Wisc stations send out ARRL official bulletins as follows:

K9HDL -- WED, SAT, & SUN at 0100 GMT on 3680 kcs
W9VZK -- Mon. thru Fri. at 1800 GMT on 7215 SSB
K9SQV -- Mon, Wed, & Fri. at 2345 GMT on 3950
K9YDY -- Mon. 0100 on 3640; Fri. at 2200 on 14074; Sat. 0100 on 3640 & Sun. 0230 on 3640 all GMT.

For service of Wisc oprs check into:

9RN (ninth regional net) 3640 at 1830 & 2100 CEST (Wis, Ill, Ind, CAN (Central Area Net) & Ky.)
3670 at 2100 CDST (Central USA)

These higher level nets meet nightly the year around. If you are interested in message handling, listen in to the above nets, or try originating a msg yourself. It can be just a simple birthday msg to some relative or friend, or to set up a sked for a QSO with sum buddy. In fact, if you want to get in touch with anyone quickly, try sending a msg instead of writing. (Con't on p.7)

You will learn the fundamentals of msg passing and have a lot of fun to boot. Try checking into one of the Wisc nets for a start, or at least make up a msg and give it to any number of Wisc oprs who will be glad to pass it for you.

REMEMBER THE SWEEPSTAKES IS COMING---NOV 11th & 12th and 18th & 19. NOW IS THE TIME TO GET UR STN IN GOOD WORKING ORDER FOR THIS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES COMING THIS WINTER.

.....de W9DYG

DX
W9QYW - CHAIRMAN

The last meeting of the DX and Activities Committee was held at the Qth of W9QYW. It was agreed by those present, that a contribution of \$1.00 each, would be made to cover the expense of printing cards for 5U7AC and 6W8BQ. W9RKP is QSL manager for 5U7AC and 6W8BQ. 5U7AC is workable on 14025 around 2000 GMT and 0600 GMT.

For those that are interested in DX, W9QYW puts out a bulletin approximately once a week. It is available to anyone who sends 5 or more, self addressed stamped envelopes to W9QYW, 6007 Oriole Lane, Greendale, Wisconsin.

For those that operate SSB, try getting up around 1100 GMT. (6 AM Local) There has been plenty of stuff coming thru-like for example; KG6IJ (Iwo Jima), KC6AQ, BVIUS, HL9, assorted VK, ZL, JA, KA, ZS, MP4BBW, VRLG (fone), VS6AE, DU7SV, CR9AH and more. Seems like everyone is going SSB. (DX wise) A word of advice- you gotta be there every morning for a week or so- the band is not always open. But keep at it, when it does open it's really worth it.

SSB's gain has been CW's loss it seems. Things have been pretty dead from 14000-14100 in the A.M. Not so the PM tho- keep your ears tuned for 5U7AC, EAQAB, ZD7SA, IS1ZUI, UAIKED, UA, UB, UC, UD, UH, UI, UJ, etc, VS9AAC, TUZAL and so on. The band is filled with the USSR boys every time its open. Try 22-2400 & 03-0500 GMT.

***** MARY MEYER, W9RUJ*****

On December 20th, 1960 our own club, and all of amateur radio in general suffered a great loss when Mary Meyer, W9RUJ suffered a severe stroke, which resulted in partial paralysis. Since then, the gals on all the bands, and the fellows too, have been asking where is Grandma? Where is Mary? When the word was passed via the nets, and by the gals all over the country, explaining what had happened to Mary, messages, letters, cards, gifts, & fone calls started pouring into Mary's Qth in unbelievable numbers. We knew Mary had many friends all over the country, but the way all Hamdom responded to her misfortune was something one had to be a part of to believe.

Mary's ham life started back in 1954, when she finally got her ticket & the call W9RUJ after several tries at passing the code. Mary has many times joked about her trouble with the code, and says she don't know how she finally did manage to pass the required 13 WPM. (Con't on p. 8)

But even then, she had the never say die spirit, that she so often displayed over the air. Soon Mary was in the thick of things, handling messages in the YL nets, even managing one of them for a while. Thru her many hours spent at the rig, and her ever present willingness to help others, Mary made her own kind of history from her many skeds with the famous Capt. Kurt Carlson, of the Flying Enterprise 2.

As a result of her many skeds with an Ecuadorain station, she finally was the first ham to pass the sad news to the parents & wife of T. Edward McCully, Jr, that this Missionary had been killed by natives in the wild of Ecuador. A lot of Mary's operating time was spent just trying to keep people in touch, such as relaying messages to and from the geophysical expeditions in the Antarctic; by helping the brothers of the college of San Jose in Nicaragua keep in touch with friends and families back in Central America, while they were in Milwaukee for medical treatment. She has always been active in all kinds of YLRL activities, and in May 1959, she was chairman of the Central YLRL held here in Milwaukee, and a whale of a convention it was.

To conclude, I can only say to all who read this article, as I have so many times said over the air; its a long road back, but Mary is making rapid progress, and I'm sure that with the help of her family, and OM Henry, and the continuing flow of greetings and queries of her many friends in the amateur fraternity, that it won't be too long before Grandma will be back on the air, and operating 24 hours a day.

.....de W9DYG..

NEW MEMBERS

KN9ESA, remember that call. Don is on 40 meters regularly making contacts with use of his home 75 watt rig. Don Kreitlow of 3213 W. Birchwood avenue, was licensed last May 4th, and since then has built his rig & worked 12 states with it. His secret must be in the antenna, it's a dipole that is 65 ft. 4 3/4 in. Don's interest in the ham hobby are toward building equipment & DX chasing. Watch for him. He is on 40 meter regularly.

Mike Ansfield, K9WII a sophomore from Shorewood High, is going all out for DX. General licensed, and operating on 20, 15, & 10 meters with a Mosley TA-33 beam, Mike has reached a score of 60 countries worked in a period of 7 months. Some of these DX contacts were with a Globe Scout transmitter and G-63 receiver. His latest equipment is a 75A2 receiver and an HT-32A transmitter. A swell combination for all types of operation. Mike has a very clean CW signal as you will notice when you hear him on 20 CW. Good luck in those DX pile ups Mike.

K9AIC, Dave Mountain 2th of 2520 E. Shorewood Blvd. is just 160 meters from K9WII. Yes less than 400 feet separate their antennas. This fact does not hinder Dave's operation. He still operates 40, 20, & 10 meters with a tri band dipole. And, the two fellows are good friends. Dave was licensed a general in Dec. of 1960 after being a novice for 2 months. He also held a technician class license before the general class came through. Dave is a freshman at Shorewood High, and is interested in rag-chews on 40 and 20 meters. He is presently operating with a DX 40 transmitter and SX100 receiver, but if his grades are good this year he may end up with a bigger rig. Good Luck Dave.

SWAN SONG

For the past 12 months, it has been my privilege to serve as President of MRAC. Your new President is Russ Burss, W9RKP. Your continued cooperation with Russ, I am sure, will be greatly appreciated. Before I pull out though, there are a couple of items which are worthy of your consideration.

We have been fortunate during the last year to have had the facilities of the Public Library, as a meeting place. While not well suited to the suburbanites (like myself) it is certainly about the best compromise. I recommend staying there.

Financially, the club made money. This is in contrast to the last two years, where we lost money. The difference has been in not having to pay rent.

In membership we are status quo. Losses and gains were about even. During the next year, I would like to see a real campaign to sign up more people. There are more than 1000 licensed amateurs in the county and I'll bet that more than half of them are active.

Except for a few individuals, club participation in some sort of public service has been non-existent. Liaison with the Emergency Corps., and CD was poor. The quickest way we can get off dead center here, is to ORGANIZE and PROMOTE an active mobile group. With a little promotion, I am sure that there are plenty of members, like myself, who would again become active mobiles.

To those who helped, my sincere thanks. To those who complained- thanks for your interest, BUT, I think that a complaint along with a remedy would be more effective. To those who weren't even interested enough to come down to meetings now and then- We amateurs, as a body exist in the public interest and because we are, for the most part, organized, I think that the ARRL and this organization merit your full support.

.....de W9QYW

****NEW PUBLISHER****

Starting with the next issue of this periodical, Jim Buth, K9CJK, will take over as Publisher. If you will remember back a few years you will recall that Jim was at one time th Editor of this paper. Jim has always done a splendid job for the Club on various assignments and I am sure he will continue to do so on this job.

For myself I wish to say I have really enjoyed doing this the past few years. It can be very interesting if one has the necessary time and the urge to help do something for the Club. But because of lack of time I find it necessary to pass the chore along to Jim. Best of luck to you Jim as Publisher and thanks for your offer to help "Keep the ball rolling". ---W9RKP

THANKS

The Editor and Publisher of this periodacal wish to take this opportunity to thank those people that have submitted articles for this issue of "Hamateur-Chatter."

FIELD DAY 1961

by
Art Vahovius, W9VSO, F.D. Chairman

This years M.R.A.C. "FIELD DAY" was held on June 24-25 at Lapham Peak, Delifield Wis. The following operators took their turn in pounding out points for the Club. Fred, W9DYG; Russ, W9RKP; John, K9PSU; Russ, W9LVR; Don, W9KQD; John, K9MTM; John, W9DGB; Gary, W9YGZ; Dick, K9GDF; Carl, W9ROM; Dick, K9CAN; Bob, W9ZB and ART, W9VSO.

The site itself would be an answer to any Ham's dream. The top of Lapham Peak towers 450 feet above the surrounding area. Terrain from an almost flat acre knoll goes in one direction---down hill. The signal strength that we pounded into all parts of the States and Canada, convinced me that the site does make a difference.

The rigs used were Rangers on 15, 20, 40 and 80 meters and a Gonset IV on 2 meters. The antennas used were as follows:

80 M inverted "V" with apex 110 feet up the FM tower.

40 M inverted "V" with apex 15 feet above the 70 ft. observation twr.

20, 15 & 10 m Telrex tri-bander @ 60 feet.

2 M 16 el Telrex Long Tom 10 feet above the 70 ft. observation twr.

The work started Friday noon, erecting tents and setting up the equipment by the advance party which consisted of K9PSU, K9CAN and W9VSO. By 7:30 pm W9DYG, W9LVR, W9GDF, W9YZG, W9DGB and W9ROM joined the group, and in short order the tent was pitched, generator started, and the rigs fired up. The next day, (Sat.) several changes were made to antennas to solve loading problems.

Everything went along fine except for the generator which conked out (again) on Sunday morning and a fine time was had by all those who participated. A total of 668 contacts were made for a score of 6,237 points. Mighty fine meals were furnished by Mrs. Borchardt and Mrs. Bellanger and believe me gals, if it was't good then how come there was't any left over?

The following people helped us out with gear:

Amateur Electronics--NC-300 Rcv. & Gonset IV 2 meter Rcv.

A & F Electric --RME 4300 Rcv.

John Czarnecki, K9PSU-- Ranger Xmtr.

Art Vahovius, W9VSO -- Ranger Xmtr.

Tom Gettleman (Gettleman Brewery)-- A huge new tent.

Carl Rohde, W9ROM--The site, and bldg with water and you know what.

I might be early in my optimism, but I believe the score racked up will be in the top contention. My sincere thanks to the participants for their 100 % effort in making this Field Day one that will be in the records as one of the best.

NOW, here is the story of one of the funniest things that was observed during the gruelling hours of operation. Fred, W9DYG, was operating, and there screwed down on the table was the "THING". That's a bug says I, after being informed that it was. Civil War vintage says I?? Question went unanswered, but then the "THING" went into action, and action it was. With a swing like a pendulum of grandpa's parlor clock, body english and a grim facial expression like his life depended on making a contact, a bobbing head with ye old corn cob pipe doing an up and down dance in cadence with the dots and dashes flying out, was just too much. My sides still ache. How tape-like CW can ever emanate out of a combination like that is way beyond me.